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Subject: PSIO SITREP UPDATE #15 – 12 Feb 2022 – Freedom Convoy Solidarity Activity

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PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ONLY: SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS SITUATION DEVELOPS. INFORMATION MAY BE BASED ON UNCONFIRMED REPORTING.

UPDATE #15

DATE/TIME: February 12, 2022 @ 12:30 hrs

PURPOSE: To provide aggregated situational awareness regarding “Freedom Convoy” solidarity activity impacting Alberta.

BACKGROUND: No change.

CURRENT STATUS:

Coutts Border Crossing & Milk River:

- As of 17:00 hrs Fri 11 Feb, RCMP and Sheriff Highway Patrol (SHP) report:
 - No accumulative convoy appeared to have travelled to COUTTS from NISKU via CALGARY on Fri 11 Feb. [Social media posts by the convoy organizer indicate that she and other supporters arrived in MILK RIVER on 11 Feb. In posts promoting the supply convoy, the organizer indicated they were attempting to hide their movement from police.]
 - Sheriffs have committed to provide 2 prisoner vans to RCMP for the weekend; to be staged in MILK RIVER.
 - Complaints have been made about drones operating in the no-fly zones.
- As of 09:00 hrs Sat 12 Feb, RCMP and Sheriff Highway Patrol (SHP) report:
 - Enforcement action at CP-10 on 11 Feb:

- 75 Registered Owner Traffic Violations Tickets (Unregistered, parking on highway, plate covered, unnecessary use of horn)
- 8 Traffic Violation Tickets (Cargo securement, fail to obey stop sign, speeding, unauthorized flashing lamp, emergency breakaway cable not connected)
- 1 arrest for outstanding warrants (9 warrants total on the individual).
- COUTTS Site
 - SB lanes: 14 Commercial Vehicles (CV), 2 passenger vehicles
 - NB lanes: 24 CV, 2 passenger, 2 farm tractors
 - Staging site: 7 CV, 13 Pass, 16 farm tractors, and 1 RV.
- CHECKPOINT 10: 30 CV; 23 farm tractors; 91 RVs; and 240 cars. Plates and VIN information being recorded.
- Drug overdose at MILK RIVER hotel last night. 1 male subject taken to hospital, appears to be associated to a driver at CP-10.
- At 05:30 Sat 12 Feb, EMS contacted for carbon monoxide event at CP-10. It appears generator was left running under RV where kids were sleeping. Everyone checked out and OK.
- BROOKS supporters are conducting a “Slow Roll” convoy protest in the local area.
- RCMP Community Conflict Management (CCMG) meeting with COUTTS blockade site to continue communication. Goal to permit emergency access and balance police presence and public safety.
- Appears the blockade leaders may be agreeable to “horsemen” staging at lawful site rather than CP-10 this weekend. They are looking into providing music to make the safe site more appealing to the protestors.
- Social Media disinformation is circulating that RCMP not allowing food or supplies through CP-10. [This is untrue]
- CBSA to keep DEL-BONITA open over weekend from 0900-1700 hours. [Federal?] Minister has closed off Coutts Border. Discussion is US will mirror Canada’s position so likely be closed to both sides.
- On 11 Feb, organizers associated with protest activity at MILK RIVER posted [a document](#) providing “social expectations” for participants at the “501 blockade” (i.e., CP-10).
- Social media activity indicates that a variety of influencers have issued calls for fundraising direct to their personal email addresses, or to abcouttsconvoy@gmail.com. An established anti-PHO influencer has criticized this development and [raised concerns](#) about whether the donations are reaching blockade participants.
- There has been discussion on allowing southbound cattle trucks to move through DEL BONITA before re-routing back to SWEETGRASS/COUTTS for clearance by the CBP, to prevent a total stoppage of cattle movement.

Alberta Legislature / McDougall Centre

- As of 11:25 hrs Sat 12 Feb, Sheriffs report minimal foot traffic on LEGISLATURE campus.
- Roadblocks in place.
- Sheriffs coordinating with EPS.

City of Edmonton & Environs

- Observation as 11:25 hrs Sat 12 Feb indicates approx 6 convoys converging on EDMONTON. [Early indicators suggests a decline in support from 5 Feb activity – approx 840 vehicles on 12 Feb vs 3000 vehicles on 5 Feb]
- As of 11:50 hrs Sat 12 Feb, EPS report:
 - SHERWOOD PARK event departed early with 120+ vehicles. 1 full tractor unit (includes trailer), 4 semi's, no RVs and no farm equip. Currently using centre lane of ANTHONY HENDAY.
 - ACHESON convoy has 320+ vehicles. 50 full tractor units (trailers), no RVs, no farm equipment
 - NISKU convoy has 150+ vehicles. 12 semi units.
 - Various pockets of trucks/semis/tractor trailer on highway 2 northbound (currently just south of Leduc); 10+ vehicles just left MORINVILLE to join up.
 - Air support (AIR 1) is downlinked directly into EOC.
- Social media from NISKU truckers suggesting they are going to 'honk horns on highway but will follow terms of injunction within the city limits'. [No injunction is in place in Alberta at this time, indicating confusion amongst participants regarding legal remedies applied in other jurisdictions]

City of Calgary & Environs

- CPS report that "only a fraction" of the expected 100 attendees arrived at a protest on 11 Feb in support of Artur PAWLOWSKI at the CALGARY REMAND CENTRE. [As similar protest activities are expected daily, visits at the centre have been cancelled to reduce movement/traffic.]

Regional Municipalities / Rural

- A slow-roll convoy is planned for BONNYVILLE, BOYLE, PLAMONDON, COLD LAKE, LLOYDMINSTER, VERMILLION, ELK RIVER, WASKATENAU, SMOKY LAKE and VILNA for 12 Feb. [status unknown at this time]
- A horseback "Freedom Ride" is planned for TURNER VALLEY for 12 Feb. [status unknown at this time]
- A horseback "Ride For Freedom" is planned for RIMBEY for 12 Feb. [status unknown at this time]
- [Social media](#) indicates a protest is planned for Centennial Plaza in COCHRANE on 13 Feb. [status unknown at this time]
- RCMP report OSINT indicates a protest is planned for MLA LAGRANGE's office in RED DEER on 13 Feb.
- RCMP report OSINT indicates a convoy is planned to run from Golden, BC to Regina, SK on 13 Feb. It is planned to pass through CALGARY, MEDICINE HAT, and REDCLIFF.

Province of Alberta

- Social media indicates a fundraiser is being held in PRIDDIS on 12 Feb for a "parallel health system" to employ nurses, respiratory therapists, paramedics, etc., who declined vaccination and are not working.
- A court case between "Freedom4Canada"/the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedom (JCCF) and the Government of Alberta is running from 10-24 Feb. Updates from the F4C site are [being shared](#) within the anti-PHO community.

Ottawa "Freedom Convoy 2022"

- Protesters in Ottawa have been able to entrench themselves, despite enforcement actions by Ottawa Police and the temporary loss of funding. Protesters in the city have reportedly established a total of three positions in the city, including two encampments.
- Groups from across Canada have also organized supply and reinforcement convoys to help keep the Ottawa occupation running. Small convoys, mostly comprised of personal vehicles, have been dispatched to Ottawa carrying fuel, food, fresh clothing, and other essential supplies for the protesters who are on site.

Other Provinces / National

- Following the Government of Ontario's declaration of a state of emergency and the imposition of an injunction, the majority of participants in the AMBASSADOR BRIDGE blockade have departed. As of 12 Feb, a small group of protestors remained, and police have begun removing pedestrians from the bridge. A small number of vehicles remain, which police have threatened to tow. Most of the commercial vehicles departed before the injunction's deadline.
- Toronto Police have closed streets in the city to prevent convoy participants from reaching the city core and Queen's Park.
- Police in Ontario have reported that a pseudolegal group called STAND4THEE have publicly "sworn in" a small number of their supporters as "peace officers", and told them that they have the same ability to arrest as a police officer. The group has a history of attempting "citizen's arrests" for alleged offences during the COVID pandemic, but have not previously used physical force to effect arrests. [The public declaration that their supporters have the ability to affect arrests may increase the likelihood of conflict between protestors and members of the public in Ottawa. No indication of similar activity has been seen in Alberta.]
- The Government of Nova Scotia has enacted Ministerial Directions under the authority of their Emergency Management Act that prohibit participating in, promoting, financing or aiding a blockade of major highways, as well as prohibiting using a vehicle to block traffic on any other road or street.

International

- A US-based protest planned for SWEETGRASS, approximately ½ mile south of the COUTTS border, is expected to draw approximately 250 persons on 12 Feb. There are no indicators that the protest will approach the border line or impact movement of goods. US BORDER PATROL preparing SWEETGRASS location (Air-Strip) west of town to be utilized for protest south of border.
- Police in France stopped a convoy composed of approximately 500 vehicles in multiple groups who were attempting to enter PARIS on 12 Feb in violation of a police order. Police reported that several convoys were stopped on key arteries, approximately 200 tickets were written and police checkpoints appeared to have been effective. Within the city, two protestors were detained and weapons were seized. In THE HAGUE, a small convoy blocked streets in front of the Dutch Parliament before leaving when threatened with fines and arrest. Two arrests were made while dispersing pedestrian protestors.
- In New Zealand, police have made dozens of arrests and towed vehicles parked near Parliament in WELLINGTON. Protestors have begun developing a occupation site in the capital despite police attempts to disperse the crowd, and increased attendance at the site is expected on 12 Feb.

MINISTRY UPDATES:

Justice & Solicitor General (JSG):

- JSG assisting with sourcing of equipment such as heavy wreckers, flat deck tow trucks, light tow trucks, and trailer/tow units. Storage and staging locations are being identified.

Transportation (TRANS):

- DEL BONITA: CBSA and USCBP will operate DEL BONITA through the weekend from 0900-1700hrs daily.
- CBSA has confirmed that USCBP will facilitate clearance of livestock at any port into the US but the carrier will have to divert to a location that has a USDA and vet services.
 - It is expected that most Alberta livestock will cross at Del Bonita due to its closeness to Sweetgrass.
- Alberta Cattle Feeders Association has requested an exemption from Transport Canada to the Hours of Service Regulation to accommodate carriers that are moving products through alternate ports. Transport Canada is prioritizing the request.

Municipal Affairs:

- No change.

Jobs, Economy, and Innovation (JEI):

- No change.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Economic Development (AFRED):

- No change.

ASSESSMENT & STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS:

- The ongoing freedom convoy protest in Ottawa continues to be the primary focus of Canadian activist activity and has been the inspiration behind additional solidarity campaigns across Canada and in the US and Europe.
- The already fragmented leadership in the convoy movement is likely to endure more conflict over fundraising, as entrepreneurial influencers collect funds without oversight or transparency. Although supporters appear willing to overlook this during the protest, it will likely result in allegations of misconduct following the protest's conclusion.

FORECAST:

- 'Freedom convoy' solidarity will likely remain the focus of Canadian activism for the foreseeable future.
- As the occupation draws on, the counter-protest movement could see a surge in support, especially from local community members who have voiced their displeasure over protest/blockade activities.

PREPARED BY: Intelligence Bureau, Provincial Security & Intelligence Office (PSIO)

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